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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
10 January 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Dominican Republic Situation Report

(Report as of 3:45 PM EST)

1. By noon today the general strike appeared at least partially effective in the capital. Employees from a number of government ministries have left their offices and reports indicate that the garbage throwing and street disorders that usually accompany politically motivated strikes have begun. Heavily armed Dominican police and Inter-American Peace Force troops, however, appear to have downtown Santo Domingo under control.

2.

Armed Forces leaders vowed late last week that they would not allow a general strike to force their departure.

3. To back up the refusal of the armed forces leaders to leave the country, military bases throughout the country apparently have been ordered on the alert.

State Dept. review completed

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5. Israeli Ambassador Varon said on 9 January that he believes his government will eventually approve a visit by the 22 regular Dominican military personnel slated to go abroad. His government had previously "suspended" planning for such a visit out of concern that Israel might be regarded as a "prison" for foreign military personnel. The Ambassador also said that he does not believe his government will object to the nomination of current Air Force Chief Juan de los Santos to be air attaché in Tel Aviv. The Israeli government's position remains that only those officers permitted to return to the Dominican Republic will be invited.

6. The Secretary General of Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), Martinez Francisco, told US Embassy officials this morning that the PRD is not backing the strike and is "doing everything possible" to undermine it. PRD leaders are, however, not yet prepared to disavow publically the walkout. Bosch is against any public disavowal for fear of alienating many members of the left. Bosch is said to be also concerned by a threat this morning from Caamano to commit suicide if Bosch disavowed the strike, according to Martinez. He added that the strike's prime movers are Hector Aristy, Caamano's political adviser, and the rabid Secretary General of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party, Caonabo Javier.

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8. (Late Item): As of 12:15 pm EST a firefight was in progress in the San Carlos area of Santo Domingo. The fight began when a mixed military/police patrol entered the area to arrest some agitators and was ambushed when it arrived.

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